

STIMULUS WATCH: WEEK 16

NEA to Spend \$30 Million in Stimulus Money on Puppets and Hand-Woven Baskets

- The Nation Endowment for the Arts (NEA) will be allotting \$30 million in stimulus funds for 600 non-profit grants to organizations such as the Center for Puppetry Arts and the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance.
- One grant will provide \$50,000 to the [Center for Puppetry Arts](#) in Atlanta, Georgia. This center offers enthusiasts the opportunity to master the art of puppetry, and participate in live shows. Among this year's shows is "Wonder Bob the Headless Rooster" (Ages 18 & up ONLY).
- The NEA will also provide \$50,000 in taxpayer funds for the [Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance](#) in Old Town, Maine. Their mission is to, "Preserve and document the tradition of basketmaking..."
- Under the House Republican Stimulus Alternative, tax dollars would not be spent on puppets and baskets. Instead, Republicans would have created twice as many jobs at half the cost. To learn how visit: <http://republicanwhip.house.gov/Jobs/>
- Sources: <http://www.nea.gov/recovery/>
<http://www.maineindianbaskets.org/>
<http://www.puppet.org/index.shtml>

The Washington Watch Report is available on the House Republican Whip's website: <http://republicanwhip.house.gov/WashingtonWatch/>.

It is updated weekly with new items of wasteful stimulus spending, a look at jobs created by the stimulus, and a video of Members discussing specific examples.